

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the application and indicating that claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 13-18, and 20 contain allowable subject matter.

Disposition of the Claims

Claims 1-20 were pending in the present patent application. By way of this reply, claims 2, 5, 12, and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11, 13, and 15-20 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1, 9, 10, and 19 are independent. The remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 10.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 3, 8-10, 15, and 19 have been amended for clarification. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments, as support for these amendments may be found, for example, in Figure 2.

Specification Amendments

Paragraph [0005] in the specification has been amended to correct minor typographical errors. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments, as support for these amendments may be found, for example, in Figure 1.

Objection to the Drawings

New drawings have been submitted to comply with 37 CFR 1.121(d). Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 5 and 12 have been cancelled. The objection is now moot as to these claims.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 12, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,157,229 issued to Yoshikawa (hereinafter "Yoshikawa"). By way of this reply, claims 5 and 12 have been cancelled, and accordingly, the rejections of these claims are moot. With respect to the remaining claims, for the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectively traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of now-cancelled dependent claim 2. As the limitations of claim 2 constitute allowable subject matter (*See* Office Action dated March 10, 2005 at page 5), amended independent claim 1 is now allowable. Accordingly withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of now-cancelled dependent claim 14. As the limitations of claim 14 constitute allowable subject matter (*See* Office Action dated March 10, 2005 at page 5), amended independent claim 10 is now allowable. Accordingly withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 9 and 19 have been amended in a similar fashion to independent claim 1 to clarify the existence and use of a synchronization signal. Thus, amended independent claims 9 and 19 are allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 4, 6, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshikawa. For the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, amended independent claims 1 and 10 are patentable over Yoshikawa. Claims 4, 6, and 11 depend directly from claims 1 and 10 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

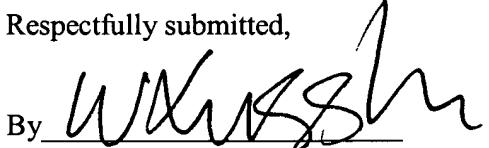
Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 03226/060001).

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Respectfully submitted,

By


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Attachments

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the figures as shown in the enclosed replacement sheet. The attached sheet of drawings includes removal of the reference to element 28.